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ABSTRACT

This book examines, through analysis of three liberal arts colleges (Antioch, Reed, Swarthmore), the factors contributing to the greatness of a first-rank liberal arts college. The writer begins with a presentation of the historical development of the three schools, followed by a detailed description of how broad institutional innovations were introduced and made to endure. Next, the book discusses the unique events, special conditions, and unusual features that are the components of each institution's fabric. The concluding section examines the phenomenon of the organizational saga, i.e., the school's linking of its social role within a defined mission that causes it to become legendary. The examination of saga, in part, seeks to convey how some colleges, and apparently some organizations in other realms, so elicit dedication and affection that the quality of life for those involved is significantly altered, often for a lifetime. Appendices include 1963 survey data on personal background and attitudes of college faculty from eight colleges (Antioch, Reed, Swarthmore, University of California at Berkeley, San Francisco State College, St. Olaf, University of the Pacific, and the University of Portland); and student responses from the same universities, 1958-1963. Contains 55 references and an index. (GLR)

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